

## ERÖFFNUNGSVERANSTALTUNG DES »GERMAN-TURKISH MASTER«

When I for the first time heard about the German-Turkish Master Program in Social Sciences I was a little bit astonished, that this is such a young program – I was born in Berlin in the early sixties of the last century, so a close relationship between Germans and people from Turkey is quite familiar to me since my school time. Mother bought fresh things exclusively from the Turkish market; we went during School lessons to the Mosque to learn more about the faith of our Turkish neighbors – and at high school we were informed that the Turkish government opened the Universities during the early thirties of the last century to the exiled German scientists and especially to the later Berlin mayor Ernst Reuter. There is a horrible description of Reuter's stay at the concentration camp in the second volume of his collected speeches: »Reuter schien das Lachen verlernt zu haben und wich Gesprächen aus« and was because of this kind of behavior »ein Symbol gegen die Tyrannei gleich welcher Couleur« (II, 441 und 442). After release in late summer 1934 and at the beginning of his exile Reuter was expecting to get a position at the London School of Economics, but before negotiations with London started he accepted a position in the Turkish Ministry of Economy and later in the Ministry for Traffic. Reuter immediately was starting to learn the Turkish language and his son, Edzard Reuter, is until now able to communicate in your language. As teacher at a college and later at the Ankara University Reuter became a mentor of a lot of people in the Turkish government: »Eine große Zahl von Verwaltungsbeamten ging durch seine Hand. ... So hatte er überall im Lande Freunde, und von dieser Verehrung, die er genoß, profitierten nun auch seine Freunde. Kam man ... etwa mit Studenten auf einer Exkursion in irgendeiner türkischen Kleinstadt an, so besuchte man selbstverständlich den Landrat oder den Bürgermeister, und dann entspann sich immer wieder daßelbe Gespräch: »Sie kommen von Ankara? Kennen Sie Professor Reuter?« Und wenn man dann erklärte, ja, man kenne ihn und man sei sogar mit ihm befreundet, dann konnte man wunderbare Dinge erleben: ein Landrat lud nicht nur mich, sondern alle Studenten und Dozenten unserer Gruppe zu einem pompösen Abendessen ein. Da es in der ganzen Stadt keinen Raum gab, der groß genug war, so wurden die Tische auf dem Bahnsteig gedeckt. Bei die-

ser und anderen Gelegenheiten ist viele, viele Male auf Reuters Wohl getrunken worden«. It s a real pleasure to read Reuter's letters from Ankara, his enthusiasm for the town and the country (»Ununterbrochen wächst die Stadt hier. Es wird enorm gebaut. Jetzt hat Ankara ... mit Vororten schon 170 000 Einwohner. Die Türkei hat seit 1927 um 2.5 Millionen Einwohner zugenommen. Es ist offensichtlich, daß die neue Welt hier sichtlich das Land umgestaltet und aufwärts führt. Ich lerne sehr viel dabei«: 475).

To mention the name of Ernst Reuter means to commemorate a level of German-Turkish academic relations which was unmatched until today – or, to speak more precisely, until the opening of our common Turkish-German Masters Program and the wonderful Ernst Reuter Initiative of both of our Ministers for Foreign Affairs. There are some discussions concerning the relation of Turkey and the European Community in Germany, some strange discussions, to address things directly. I personally think that the best contribution of Universities and scientists in Germany to overcome strange discussions and old-fashioned positions is to strengthen Academic relations between our countries. And strengthen means not to sign pure declarations of common interest, but to open our students in both countries the possibility to spend time in Ankara and vice versa in Berlin, to learn their lessons from German and Turkish teachers and to establish common research projects between our students, the future scientists of our countries.

One of the most beautiful duties of a University President is to express thanks for things which other members of his University have brought together. So it's a wonderful duty to express deep thankfulness to Hans-Joachim Glaesner and his colleagues in Berlin and Ankara, to the German Academic Exchange Service, the Ministry of Education and Research and to the Foreign Office and to wish the Students from both countries a fruitful stay in Berlin, a wonderful time in Germany and all participants a unforgettable Master Program here and there. And to all of you I would like to say a warm and deep »Most welcome«.